



PARENT INFORMATION PORTAL
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- **26 October 2022**
Board Meeting



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Community,

I have a few exciting announcements and reminders to share in this week's Oryx.

Tygerberg Children's Choir

A reminder that we are looking forward to welcoming to WIS Auditorium the Tygerberg Children's Choir to campus this coming Wednesday October 5th. The concert will begin at 6pm. Tickets are available at reception. The cost for adults is N\$80 and tickets for children are N\$50. Representatives from the WIS choir will also be joining in this performance. The Tygerberg Children's Choir is currently the number one children's choir in the world and holds the 4th position overall in the Interkultur World Rankings. The concert will be recorded and televised on SkyNET's Channel 146 on DSTV.

WIS Got Talent

We are excited for our annual talent show finale happening in the WIS Auditorium this evening from 6pm. All the best to the participants! This is also a good time to learn to be good audience members, clapping and cheering appropriately while listening attentively during the performances themselves. WIS has so much talent!

Grade 9 & 10 Parent Morning: IGCSE and DP Results and School/Home Action Items

20 October 07:30 - 08:30 in Staff Room

Ms. Margarete Reiff, Mr. Johan Meyer, and Mr. Rick Fitzpatrick will provide an overview of recent trends regarding WIS external examination results, and identify actions the school and its students are taking to enhance our approach to teaching and learning. While tailored to the interests of Grade 9 and 10 parents, all may attend. The slide deck will be shared for parents not able to do so..

MYP Parent Morning

27 October 07:30 - 08:30 in Staff Room

Ms. Margarete Reiff, Mr. Adrian von Wrede-Jervis, and Ms. Angie Janse van Rensburg will present information about the roll-out and implementation of the IB Middle Years Programme.

WIS's Approach to Data-based Decision Making in the IB Diploma Programme

We reviewed our recent MAP Growth Test results in last week's Oryx. These tell a compelling and positive story about the learning that is happening at WIS in Grades 1 - 8. Below, I am happy to share the following information with you about our May/June 2022 IBDP Examination Results.

WIS BOOK BUZZ



BOOK BUZZ

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE WIS LIBRARY TEAM

Did you know that reading can make you kinder?

Researchers at Kingston University in London found that regular reading makes you kinder and more empathetic. According to these researchers, frequent readers are also more inclined than non-readers to see things from other people's points of view. Being kinder and more empathetic starts with a solid foundation of examples. Books provide great examples and a beginning platform for children to learn what empathy and kindness mean. Here are three books that can help your child cultivate kindness and empathy:

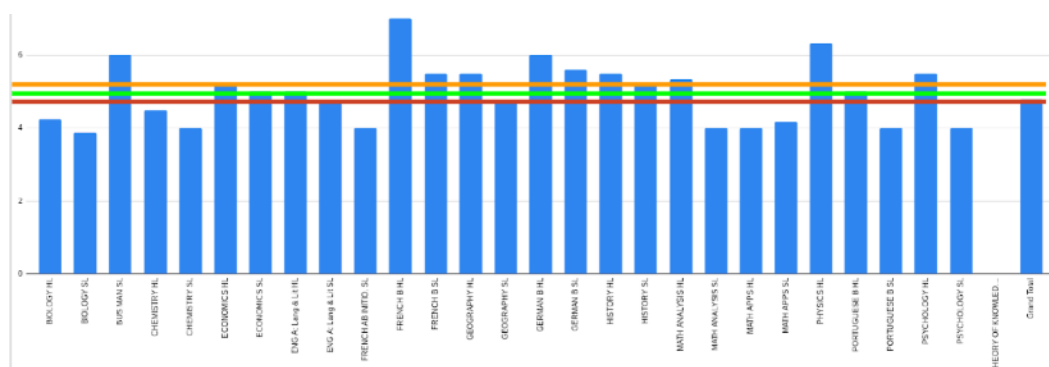
1. **KINDNESS ROCKS BY SONICA ELLIS:** Clara is a young nature enthusiast who loves to collect beautiful rocks. Instead of keeping them for herself, she paints uplifting messages on them and returns them to the woods for others to find.
2. **THE RABBIT LISTENED BY CORI DOERRFELD:** Taylor is having a hard time. When he tries to explain the source of his sadness to his animal friends, they're all full of opinions about what Taylor should do. What Taylor really needs is someone to lend a listening ear and try to understand his feelings instead of giving solutions.
3. **THOSE SHOES BY MARIBETH BOELTS AND NOAH Z. JONES:** Jeremy has been wanting the cool new shoes everyone else at school has, but his grandmother can't afford them. To make things worse, his classmates make fun of him when his own shoes fall apart and have to be replaced with free ones from the guidance counsellor.

For questions and inquiries, please email us at jwashington@wis.edu.na and mneftali@wis.edu.na.

HAPPY READING!

DP Summary of Results:

Global Results	WIS Results
Average points globally by IBDP Students: 31.98	Average points obtained by IBDP Students: 31.0
Global Pass Rate (% of graduating students with IB Diploma): 85.85%	WIS Pass Rate (% of graduating students with IB Diploma): 84%
Global Mean Subject Grade: 5.12 (out of 7)	WIS Mean Subject Grade Obtained: 4.99 (out of 7)



What the horizontal lines represent:

- "Top Tier Averages": As a general rule of thumb, top tier International Schools usually achieve an average of around 33 points in the IBDP. The Subject average for this would be around: 5.25
- "Global Average" of DP Results is: 5.12
- "WIS May 2022 Average DP Results": The who graduated from WIS in 2022 scored 31.0 total points and a mean subject grade of 4.99. These results are generally in line with WIS's historical trend.

Key Take-Aways:

a) Emphasis on the IB Core: Our Theory of Knowledge results are in line with world averages, but our Extended Essay results are slightly below world average and have some high and low marks. Ms Carola Beyer has volunteered to coordinate the Extended Essay so that students are supported in their process for this 4000-word research essay. Our new Digital Media and Librarian Teacher Ms Jeannette Washington is offering a Grade 11 Academic Writing course which will provide some important data. The skills and approaches to learning developed from the IB Core have a benefit in all subject areas, and vice versa.

b) Teacher Collaboration and Planning Time: In April 2022, the school received a full five-year reaccreditation report from the International Baccalaureate.

The IBDP evaluation report noted these **Strengths**:

1. The school demonstrates their commitment to a holistic approach to education;

2. Learning spaces are designed and used in innovative and flexible ways to reflect students' needs and interests. This was highly evident from the classroom set-up, the use of outdoor spaces for learning and multimedia platforms.
3. Examples of learning engagements and teaching strategies such as visible thinking routines and opportunities to practice mindfulness in class demonstrate the focus on developing students as inquirers and thinkers.

Areas for development (only one was identified for the WIS IBDP):

1. Review meeting time and other resources to further enhance teachers' capacity for effective collaborative planning to ensure consistent approaches to teaching and coherence across the curriculum.

c) Teacher Office Hours and After School Support: Identify times where students are expected to connect with teachers for doubt-clearing sessions and academic support. Schedule "Academic Catch-up Times" after school where students must attend if they fall behind on any given internal assessment or other [IBDP deadline](#).

d) Identify and Address Learning Gaps: The pandemic educational outcomes gap highlighted in [this Brookings report](#) from March 2022 depicts the reality that youth globally suffered. WIS cannot escape this reality but will not use it as an excuse. In this spirit, WIS educators are accommodating and including undertaking special measures to ensure comprehension of content and skills which may not have been developed and need reinforcement. Moreover, we are identifying gaps within student learning, especially core skills within reading, writing, and mathematics, and designing especially our future MYP Unit Plans to expressly meet these gaps.

e) Subject-specific Action Plans: Teachers receive subject reports that give detailed feedback on each component of their subject. The DP teachers are presently reviewing these reports, and revising their syllabi and teaching strategies based upon this information. This year's review and target-setting process will be completed at the end of October.

f) Diploma Pathways: Continue defining our WIS High School Diploma and conduct a feasibility study of the IB Career-related Diploma. We will do this in a way that is integrated with our college and careers counselling, ensuring a smooth best-fit WIS-to-University and future studies pipeline.

This is the second of three articles we are compiling which reviews recent WIS academic achievement results and their implications on how we prioritise our time and resources. In next week's Oryx we will review the IGCSE Results, and provide an update on the implementation of the MYP.

Sincerely,
Ethan Van Drunen

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Dear WIS Community,

My absolute favourite part of how we share our learning at WIS are the Learning Celebrations. This week I visited EY3 celebrating their unit of inquiry on *People and Places in Our Community*. The excitement was palpable as I walked into the space where these learners were presenting their dioramas. There is something quite amazing about a 5-year-old confidently articulating what a community is (*a place where people work and play together*), what people do in their community, and why they are an important part of their community. As part of this unit, learners developed essential skills by interviewing people in their community, observing places around the campus (*we never knew Ms. Avril and Ms. Elsa also have an office! We love the workshop!*), procedures in the school (*Ms. Debbie, the door is broken- you need to lodge a ticket to get Mr. Antonio with his drill*), finding and labelling things, mapping, and theorising about their part in their community and how we are all connected (*well, if I wasn't here, the teachers wouldn't have a job*). Learners came away with an understanding of how things work in the small community of their classroom within the larger community of the school.



Students interviewed Ms. Sabina. Ms. Sabina cleans the office where Mr. Ethan works.



Learning Celebrations are more than a display of student work and a party at the end of a unit of inquiry. They allow learners to reflect on and articulate what they have learned, how they learned, questions they answered, research they conducted, and areas of strength and struggles.

Learning Celebrations are an opportunity for learners to receive feedback from the wider community (most importantly parents), and see that their learning is important and valued. These things are strongly emphasised within our PYP framework as we know they benefit and accelerate learning.

Created for an audience beyond the classroom, Learning Celebrations are powerful opportunities to make learning public. Preparing work to be shared with an authentic audience motivates learners and creates a purpose for them to care about the quality of their work. Presenting work to an authentic audience also raises the stakes and sets the expectation that all learners, not just a select group, will share their high-quality products. The experience learners have with their audience creates an emotional connection to the content and motivates them.

Homeroom teachers at WIS will communicate the dates of our Learning Celebrations with parents which take place at the end of every unit of inquiry. I encourage you to visit and enjoy these as much as you can.

Warm regards,
Marcelle van Leenen



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Excellence - how do we define excellence in a WIS context?

Our mission and vision is to *"develop the full potential of each student in a stimulating environment of academic excellence, cultural diversity and active social responsibility to become internationally-minded independent thinkers."*

How do we achieve this in a diverse 21st century school?

The generation growing up in the world right now is faced with distinctly different challenges than we were with regard to expectations, job market, environmental challenges as well as matters of justice, equity and inclusion. What is our role as a community - the school together with our parents - to ensure that we educate our children to be able to manage these challenges to their own benefit, but also to the benefit of their communities, their environment and society at large?



This week, we had an assembly on different aspects in our school that we are currently paying attention to - treating each other with respect, respecting our environment, appreciating each other and our differences and diversity and being able to create an environment in school that can cultivate academic as well as social excellence.

What does excellence mean to us at WIS?

We need to define excellence in our context and this needs to become a culture that is lived inside as well as outside of school - in school classrooms, on the playground, at home, in social interactions inside and outside of school and in everything we do. As I discussed with the Grade 11 students who worked on preparing the assembly and have discussed with different other people in the past week: excellence, respect, equity and responsible actions cannot be extrinsically forced if they are to be pillars of our community and in fact, pillars of society. Only if we can achieve intrinsic respect; excellence, because we believe in excellence; equity, because we believe in equity and behave responsibly, because we believe that this is the right thing to do, only then can our students, our community and society become these attributes.

Extrinsic rewards of “punishments” are only temporary solutions to challenges. In a world, where we are tempted to react to instant gratification, materialistic wealth and “beauty” through social media and advertisements, it is our responsibility as educators - at home as well as in school - to emphasise the good because of the good and not because of the reward or punishment.



In preparation for the assembly, the Grade 11 class spent two lessons exploring the different aspects that we want to focus on. [HERE](#) is the sheet that they created with statements that they believe need to be part of our definition of excellence. We have policies to guide all our school procedures, but if we - students, teachers, parents and the community - don't believe in these, the policies are but hollow skeletons that are there in a “shelf”.

RESPECT
We are a community. We make a difference.

How do we educate our children - at home and in school - about RESPECT, EQUITY, responsible use of substances and many more topics that they are faced with on a daily basis?

- Why does bullying need to be addressed? - in school as well as at home.
- Why do we need to talk about and deal with “substance abuse”?
- Why do we need to have a programme in school about a “comprehensive sexuality education”?
- Why do we need to consciously address matters of diversity, equity, equality?

Because we have a responsibility to guide our young people to

- know what is right to do.
- support their peers when they do the right thing
- stand up for themselves AND for others when things are not right.

As responsible members of the WIS community, we all need to believe and live the principles of excellence. This means that we respect each other and our diversity and differences as well as have the courage to speak up when things are not right.

We depend on the cooperation of families and the whole community to have conversations and discussions about these important matters at home, in their circle of friends as well as students amongst each other.

**Regards,
 Maggie Reiff**

PEEL Paragraph writing

(Point - Evidence - Explanation - Link)

The Grade 8 students are currently learning how to structure their writing by using the PEEL essay structure in English. They were asked to choose a picture and then write a PEEL paragraph on their choice of picture. The students got graded on this task as part of Criterion C - Producing text.

By Finn Botha - Gr. 8JPB

Water should be conserved to save our planet and our humankind from the eventual ending. On average a human uses 152 liters of water per day. This includes toilet flushing, showering, dishwashing, drinking, and for a lot of other uses. Taking into account that there are over 7 billion people on our planet, some using more water, some using less, it is estimated by professionals that about 10 billion tons of freshwater are used every day

worldwide. We are slowly beginning to struggle because we don't have enough water in our world. It has come to a point where we have to take water out of the ocean. This process and the general process of creating usable water are also getting more and more expensive. You might want to live in the moment and don't want to think about these problems. But if it continues like this then one day water will be much more valuable than gold, because humans, animals, and plants need water to survive, otherwise we and them might not be able to live on. Everyone can try and conserve water by checking for water leaks, taking shorter showers, checking that one does not leave the water tap running and a lot of other small things can change a lot if everyone were to do them. From this, we can conclude that water is going to become very scarce in the future and that we need to conserve it if we want to live on for multiple generations.



By Hala Ayoub - Gr. 8JPB

Music is one of the most powerful ways to organise our thoughts and ideas. The average person has around 6200 thoughts every day, which gets overwhelming, however, music has a big influence on our brains which is able to make us more productive. When we listen to music we enjoy, we are able to obtain a hard-working mindset. Music is also able to increase your brain's dopamine level, this changes our function, memory, movement, motivation, mood, attention, and more. Music has so many ways to help us do better in what we are working on and help organise/understand our thoughts and ideas. A reality without music would not have our brains work efficiently. Given all the pros and impacts music has on our brains it is more than obvious that music is one of the most powerful ways to organise our thoughts and ideas.



By Tinashe Musavengana - Gr. 8AJ

Electric cars should be normalised and are healthier for the environment than fuel-driven cars. According to edfenergy.com, it states that: "The major benefit of electric cars is the contribution that they can make towards improving air quality in towns and cities." Elon Musk (the CEO of Tesla - a popular electric car company) has stated the reason he invests in creating electric cars is: "To accelerate the advent of sustainable transport by bringing mass-market electric cars to market as soon as possible." As per Investopedia.com. In the second statement, Elon Musk clearly mentions sustainability and in the first statement, the writer mentions the improvement of air quality. This shows how effective electric cars are for the environment by ensuring that it does not pollute the world. Which are major climate change issues and the change from fuel-driven cars to electric, ones would give us a more environmentally friendly world. This is why I think that electric cars should be used more and are healthier for the environment.



Grade 9 Geography Mapping


At the end of the unit “Introduction to Geography and the concept of maps” Grade 9 Geography students are using their skills to record the coordinates so that they can create maps showing the location of various amenities on the school grounds. The grade 9s chose one amenity for per group and recorded the locations of lockers, dustbins, shaded areas, seating areas, play areas and drinkable water taps. Plotting the locations of these amenities on maps using GIS can help the students to suggest areas where more of these amenities might be placed for ease of access for all.





OTB Triathlon


This is a super event that gives participants a chance to put into practice the skills and abilities and characteristics we learn in Physical Education sessions. Remember you can enter as an individual or as a team.

Please let Mr. Jackson-Read know if you would like to join. I will take a group on the school bus, there are places for 10 children (including bikes).


RMB







RMB OFF-ROAD TRI SUN 30 OCT

LAKE OANOB RESORT

ENDURO 1.1km/ 28km/ 9km

SPRINT 600m/15km/4km

MINI 300m/ 4km/ 2km

Sport Headlines

Dear WIS community,

A group of students across school would like to tell you more about their achievements, struggles, passion and success. Almost every weekend, many of our students participate in a variety of sporting activities.

Last weekend several students took part in the National **Short Course Swimming Championships and Coastal Pirates Inline Hockey Tournament in Swakopmund. They tried their best and proudly represented their clubs.**



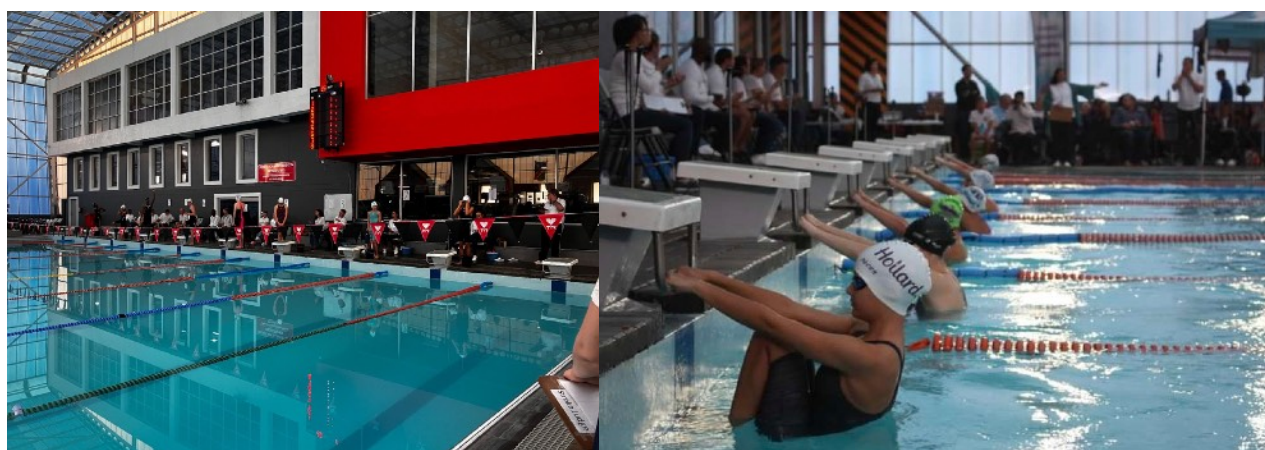
*Hermanus (Hanru) Du Preez is missing from the picture.

- Courtney Loubser: I loved the championship. It was very fun for me. I did well and really enjoyed it.
- Oliwia Stephanus: I really enjoyed nationals this year. I do feel I could've done better, but I tried my best, but I made many PBs during this gala which I'm really proud of. I had a lot of fun and I can't wait for next year.
- Namasiku Van Der Linden: I enjoyed swimming for the Nationals because it's my dream to be a swimming coach. But I am very happy for next year. I really like swimming. It makes me really strong.
- Naeem Robiati: I loved SC nationals this year, I got PBs on all events and I'm super proud of myself for that. Of course there were mishaps but these will help me grow and get better for next year.
- Esmeralda Nel: I really enjoyed SC nationals this year, due to a few



injuries I couldn't train for this, I achieved all the goals I set for myself by swimming PBs in all my events, and surprising myself with a few medals. Really happy to be back in the pool and can't wait for next year and for the LC gala's to begin.

- Salomé Rey: SC Nationals is one of my favourite galas of the season due to it being in Swakop. It is a competitive yet fun environment. I am quite proud of the results I achieved at this gala, I received 12 medals and got new PBs in all my events. I'm really looking forward to competing again next year!
- Candice Rey: I really loved this gala because I have trained so hard for it and swimming it, beating my times, made me have a feeling of confidence. It also gives me the feeling that I can do whatever I put my mind to, which is why I really love Short Course Nationals.



Coastal Pirates Inline Hockey Tournament



- Leo & Reuben Jackson-Read: This was our 5th and final inline hockey tournament for the year. Whilst we didn't do as well as we had hoped, we grew as a team and maintained a positive spirit until the end. Working as part of a team is very important to achieve our goals, as each individual plays a key role for the success of the team. We were also lucky enough to play in the Africa Cup this year, which was hosted here in Namibia. We really enjoyed the experience of participating alongside some pros, including our national teams.
- Alex Collair: The tournament was hard but fun at the same time. Some of the players were rough but they were good at the same time. Seeing wins for this year was excellent, and I'm looking forward to the next tournaments next year.

Well done to everyone who took part in those events. It is so important to find a balance in our daily schedules and at the same time do something that you like.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all the students, parents and teachers who participated in our Inter-house swimming gala which took place two weeks ago at Marlins. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Hats off to our Sports department for a fantastic two day Primary Sports day! Thank you!

Sports fan

Health Hub

Dear Families,

I'm attaching a link to a recent MUMPS outbreak notification from the Ministry of Health and Social Services for the Erongo region - the region includes Swakopmund, Henties Bay, Walvis Bay. Even though I've not received news of a mumps outbreak in Windhoek, our families travel to the coast on a regular basis.

The notification provides good information about the spread and symptoms of MUMPS, but I'd like to add the following Symptoms:

Because the salivary glands are affected and inflamed, someone with mumps will find it very difficult to tolerate any sour food or drink - it will cause pain and discomfort to the salivary glands.

re Explanation of some of the symptoms:

- Orchitis: Inflammation of one or both testicles
- Oophoritis: Inflammation of one or both ovaries
- Mastitis: Inflammation of breast tissue

Complications that develop due to severe untreated orchitis and oophoritis, can result in fertility impairment. Complications from meningitis or encephalitis can be fatal. Immunisation against mumps is available from your doctor or health clinic.

Please don't send your child to school if he/she is unwell.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KIDveHM26iF-MjS9vCC43bjv76n-FN_j/view?usp=sharing

Sharon Gorelick, Nurse & Counsellor



AFTERCARE SIGN-UPS OCTOBER

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO SIGN-UP!



WIS Fun Colour Run

**Join the IBDP 2023 Graduation Class
Fundraising event**

Friday 7th October From 12:00 to 13:30

On the Big Field

Entry Fee N\$50.00

Wear a White Shirt





WINDHOEK
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
WELCOMES

50
Tygerberg
children's choir
kinderkoor
ca. 1972

IN CONCERT 2022
5th October @18pm

Windhoek International School (Auditorium)

Conductor: Karina Erasmus
Accompanist: Madri Gerber

ON TOUR



CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH WINDHOEK

PRESENTS

SIZZLE & SING CONCERT



**A d u l t : T I C K E T N \$ 1 0 0
N \$ 5 0 (C h i l d r e n 1 2
y e a r s & b e l o w)
(i n c l u d e s w o r s r o l l a n d
a s o f t d r i n k)**

SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER 2022, 17H00

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